

-----  
Title: DESTRUCTION

Author: Nadayr of Tenebrae  
-----

## THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE

The early days of the Great Temple were a dark time. The blood from the wars flowed freely as Pagan fought Zealan in the grand struggle of religious cleansing. Battles were planned and executed. Lives were lost all in the name of archaic beliefs. All the while, Pagans toiled daily to construct the Great Temple on the apex of Mount Morgaelin, as commanded by the benevolent being called the Guardian. The fear of the Destroyer was strong.

Years of sweat ultimately resulted the Temple's completion. There the Pagan leaders met to focus their energies into the worship of the Elementals. Tremendous magical forces were used to collect a strange black mineral and shape it into a large, dark obelisk. From inside the Temple, the followers channeled their thoughts through the obelisk to the four elements, giving them even greater power. Soon they had amassed enough energy to become the great Titans of Earth, Water, Air, and Fire.

The war continued, but now the Pagans had considerable assistance.

Lithos moved the lands to  
trap the Zealans, while  
Hydros removed her  
waters from their reach.  
Pyros' fires raged and  
grew, fueled by the winds  
of Stratos. It was only a  
matter of attrition  
before the Zealans and  
their petty beliefs  
fell. Then came the  
Guardian's final words of  
warning: 'Take your people  
and depart from the  
Temple. The Destroyer  
has come.' As the Pagans  
left the Temple, the red  
head of the Destroyer  
filled the darkened sky,  
its yellow orb-like eyes  
staring malevolently at  
the mountain top.

Then, out from those  
very eyes lightning shot  
out, striking the Temple.  
A few moments later and  
the great edifice was no  
more. The cry of shock  
was heard throughout the  
land. The Pagans pleaded  
for the aid of the  
Titans. They were not  
disappointed. The four  
Titans appeared to  
challenge the invader. The  
land was all but  
destroyed as rock, rain,  
wind, and fire hailed down  
from above. The battle  
was long and fierce. Finally,  
however, the Titans  
returned victorious. The  
land, though scarred from  
the terrible fight, was  
still theirs. There was  
nothing left of the  
Temple -- no ruins, no  
stones, no dust.

However, there are  
legends that claim the  
great obelisk was  
shattered into several  
fragments, spewn across  
the island when the  
mountain was hit by the  
Destroyer's bolts of

lightning. The locations of the fragments are known only as rumors. Such stories indicate that each of the Titans possess one of the fragments, either as a source of power or to keep the other Titans in check (since the black stone seems to be an anathema to the Titans).

The first fragment, called the Heart of Earth, fell to Lithos, who keeps it in the fabled Pit of Death. Hydros set hers, the Tear of the Seas, on the floor of the ocean in a deep undersea city. The third fragment, the Breath of Air, is said to be on the island of Stratos' followers. A fourth fragment fell to the lands that became the cemetery, though many years later it was given to the first five Sorcerers and used to bind the Titan of Fire to their will.

There is considerable speculation about a fifth fragment. Apparently the tip of the great obelisk was seen hurling through the air almost entirely intact. However, no one ever saw the item land, so its location remains a mystery. Were all of the fragments to be gathered together and taken to an area near the location of the ancient Temple, it might be possible to recreate the effects of the obelisk. Of course, it to would still be necessary to fabricate a magical field of some sort to channel the energy from whatever source first gave the obelisk power.